

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. 911-042.52  
Public Service Commission, on )  
its own motion, seeking to )  
administer funding for public )  
safety answering points for the ) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING  
implementation and provision of )  
Enhanced Wireless 911 service: )  
Cherry County ) Entered: April 9, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about January 11, 2019, the Cherry County ("Cherry") public safety answering point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set-aside funds to purchase new call handling equipment from Solacom, Dispatch Map software from GeoComm, and computer equipment from Applied Connective Technologies. The total amount of eligible costs requested to be paid from Cherry's set-aside funds is \$81,645.00.

These purchases will permit Cherry to replace obsolete equipment and join a new regional network of PSAPs to be known as the North Central Region. In addition to Cherry (which also provides service to Keya Paha County), the North Central Region will include the PSAPs serving Brown County and Rock County plus Boyd-Holt E-911, which serves Boyd and Holt Counties.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its January 16, 2019 meeting and recommended that the requested funding be approved.

O P I N I O N   A N D   F I N D I N G S

Pursuant to the 911 Service system Act<sup>1</sup> (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").<sup>2</sup> The Fund consists primarily of surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.<sup>3</sup> The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay for costs that are determined by the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to be eligible for funding, including costs incurred by PSAPs for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for

<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

the provision of 911 service.<sup>4</sup> The funding mechanism adopted by the Commission permits PSAPs to set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.<sup>5</sup>

Commission Orders also permit eligible costs incurred by PSAPs in order to join a region may be fully paid from PSAP set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.<sup>6</sup> Such eligible costs include equipment, software, and the first year of multi-year maintenance, support, service license agreements. However, future years of multi-year maintenance, support, service or licensing agreements remain subject to the wireless/wireline ratio and must be paid from sources other than set-aside funds, such as a PSAP's annual funding allocation.<sup>7</sup>

Based upon the request for funding, supporting documentation, and in consideration of the recommendation of the Advisory Board, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the costs requested meet the statutory requirement for funding eligibility as costs that have been incurred or will be incurred for the acquisition of new equipment and related maintenance costs and license fees, and/or the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications service required for the provision of 911 service.<sup>8</sup> In addition, all such costs will be incurred by Cherry to join the North Central Region and, therefore, may be paid from set-aside funds, without applying the wireless/wireline ratio.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to call processing equipment, computer equipment, and mapping software is \$75,870.00. In addition, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds with respect to the first year of multi-year maintenance, support,

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<sup>4</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

<sup>5</sup> *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and to establish a permanent funding mechanism for wireless enhanced 911 service*, Application No. 911-019/PI-118, FINAL ORDER ADOPTING MODEL AND APPLICATION PROCESS (Feb. 23, 2010).

<sup>6</sup> *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Chase County*, Application No. 911-042.50, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (October 16, 2018).

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Boone County*, Application No. 911-042.44, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (Jan. 8, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(c).

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service or licensing agreements is \$5,775.00. Therefore, the total amount eligible for funding hereunder using set-aside funds is \$81,645.00. Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funds by Cherry should be approved in an amount up to **\$81,645.00**.


O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Cherry County is hereby approved in the amount of up to **\$81,645.00**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

